

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PM-04 NSC-05
SP-02 SS-15 PRS-01 /047 W
-----182255Z 105339 /14
R 180912Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 087
INFO JCS WASHDC
SECDEF WASHDC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE THE HAGUE 1401

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: OVIP NL (BROWN, GENERAL GEORGE S.)
SUBJECT: GENERAL BROWN'S VISIT: MEDIA COVERAGE

REF: (A) THE HAGUE 1165 (DTG 071507Z MAR 77)
(B) JCS 081935Z MARCH 77 (CITE 7707)

1. AS REPORTED REFTELS GEN GEORGE S. BROWN, CHAIRMAN OF JCS, SCHEDULED TO MAKE OFFICIAL VISIT HERE APRIL 12-15 AT DUTCH INVITATION. HIS PROGRAM IS EXCLUSIVELY IN DUTCH HANDS EXCEPT THAT AMBASSADOR IS HAVING DINNER IN HIS HONOR APRIL 14, WHICH GENERAL HAS ACCEPTED.
2. SCHEDULE PREPARED FOR BROWN VISIT BY DUTCH MAKES NO ARRANGEMENTS FOR PRESS. MOD PLANS NO PRESS RELEASE AND DUTCH JCS PREFERS NO PRESS CONFERENCE OR OTHER EXPOSURE TO PRESS. MOD SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THEY WILL NOT PROPOSE ANY CHANGE IN THIS RESPECT UNLESS EMBASSY AND GENERAL BROWN REQUEST IT.
3. GIVEN GENERAL BROWN'S POSITION WE DO NOT THINK IT REALISTIC TO EXPECT TO ISOLATE HIM FROM CONTACT WITH PRESS SINCE FACT OF VISIT BOUND TO BECOME PUBLIC AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PRESS INTEREST IN OBVIOUS. THERE IS HIGH DUTCH INTEREST IN ALL ASPECTS US/DUTCH/NATO RELATIONSHIPS AND WIDE MEDIA AWARENESS GENERAL BROWN'S POSITION GOING BACK SEVERAL YEARS, INCLUDING HIS VIEWS ON SOME ASPECTS OF DUTCH MILITARY FORCES. WE SEE NO POSSIBILITY FOR HIM TO COMPLETE FOUR DAY VISIT WITHOUT ATTRACTING CONSIDERABLE MEDIA INTEREST.

4. PRESS INTEREST WILL INCLUDE SUCH QUESTIONS AS GENERAL'S PAST STATEMENT RE DUTCH MILITARY, MILITARY UNIONS AND BROADER MILITARY SUBJECTS. EMBASSY FEELS NEITHER IT NOR DUTCH MILITARY SHOULD BE IN POSITION OF APPEARING TO HIDE VISIT, OR DUCK QUESTIONS.

5. EMBASSY SUGGESTS MEETING WITH PRESS IN CONTROLLED SITUATION, E.G. BRIEF PRESS CONFERENCE AT MOD OR EMBASSY AT END OF VISIT. SUCH MEETING WILL HELP ALLAY SPECULATIVE STORIES, QUESTIONS BY PRESS AS GENERAL LEAVES MEETINGS, MISQUOTES, ETC., AND SHOULD REDUCE POSSIBILITY OF GENERAL HAVING TO RESPOND TO LEADING QUESTIONS FROM ANY REPORTERS WHO SOMEHOW OR OTHER MANAGE TO GET TO HIM.

6. EMBASSY REQUESTS DEPARTMENT TO CONSULT WITH GENERAL BROWN'S OFFICE TO ASCERTAIN FIRST, NATURE OF GENERAL'S

ARRANGEMENTS WITH DUTCH FOR VISIT; AND, SECOND, TO REACH UNDERSTANDING ON METHOD OF HANDLING PRESS HERE, PREFERABLY ALONG LINES PARA5.
MCCLOSKEY

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